

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET-ARGENTINE ECONOMIC COOPERATION: PURCHASE OF SOVIET
GENERATORS APPROVED FOR THERMOELECTRIC STATIONS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 4981; (B) BUENOS AIRES 2230; (C) MOSCOW 13268

1. SUMMARY - TASS VESTNIK NOVEMBER 6 REPORTED SPECIAL DECREE BY ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT APPROVING PURCHASE BY "AGUA Y ENERGIA ELECTRICA" OF TWO 310-MEGAWATT TURBO-GENERATORS FROM USSR FOR THERMOELECTRIC STATIONS AT LUHAN-DE-CUEJO AND SAN NICOLAS. GENERATORS ARE TO BE DELIVERED IN 1977 AND 1978 RESPECTIVELY. SOVIETS CONCLUDED ADDITIONAL CONTRACT WITH ARGENTINE FIRM "SEGBA" FOR DELIVERY OF SIMILAR GENERATOR DURING 1977. OTHER ITEMS IN ENERGY AREA MENTIONED IN REPORT INCLUDE: AGREEMENT ON DELIVERY OF 12 135-MEGAWATT SOVIET GENERATORS FOR SALTO GRANDE PROJECT AND ARGENTINE ORDER OF TWO ADDITIONAL GENERATORS FOR SAME LOCATION; POSSIBLE SALE OF SOVIET TRANSFORMER STATIONS AND TRANSMISSION LINES; PARTICIPATION BY SOVIET SPECIALISTS IN FEASIBILITY STUDY OF PARANA MEDIO PROJECT.

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RE BILATERAL TRADE ARTICLE MENTIONS SOVIET SALES OF TWO MOBILE

COAL-MINING COMBINES (500,000 RUBLES), OIL/PETROLEUM STORAGE TANKS (ESTIMATED 10 MILLION RUBLES), COTTON-SPINNING MACHINERY (1.5 MILLION RUBLES), VARIOUS TYPES OF BEARINGS (1.5 MILLION RUBLES). IN ADDITION TO IMPORTS OF TRADITIONAL ARGENTINE PRODUCTS, LARGELY WOOL AND HIDES, SOVIETS HAVE MADE SUBSTANTIAL MEAT PURCHASES DURING PAST TWO YEARS, INCLUDING ESTIMATED 15 MILLION RUBLES WORTH IN 1974. END SUMMARY

2. ACCORDING TO VESTNIK REPORT SOVIET-ARGENTINE AGREEMENT ON SALE OF TWO 310-MW GENERATORS FOR LUHAN-DE-CUEJO AND SAN NICOLAS WAS REACHED ON JULY 2, 1975. ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL DECREE BY ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE FORMALITY REQUIRED BEFORE AGUA Y ENERGIA ELECTRICA CAN SIGN PURCHASE CONTRACT WITH SOVIET FTO ENERGOACHEXPORT. REPORT STATES THAT DEAL CONCLUDED AT SAME TIME BETWEEN ENERGOACHEXPORT AND ARGENTINE FIRM SEGBA FOR DELIVERY DURING 1977 OF SIMILAR GENERATOR. SOVIET-ARGENTINE COOPERATION IN ENERGY AREA ALSO INCLUDES AGREEMENT ON SOVIET DELIVERY OF 12 135-MW AGGREGATES FOR SALTO GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT BETWEEN 1977 AND 1979, AS WELL AS ARGENTINE ORDER FOR TWO ADDITIONAL SUCH GENERATORS. EQUIPMENT WILL BE PRODUCED BY LENINGRAD ELECTROSILA PLANT AND KHARKOV TURBINE WORKS. SOVIETS BASE CLAIM TO GREAT EXPERIENCE IN THIS TECHNOLOGY ON SOME 40 SUCH STATIONS PRESENTLY INSTALLED IN SOVIET UNION, AS WELL AS SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO JOINT YUGOSLAV-ROMANIAN DJERDAP-IRON GATES HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT ON DANUBE. ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT ARGENTINES ALSO THINKING OF BUYING SOVIET TRANSFORMER STATIONS AND TRANSMISSION LINES. SOVIET SPECIALISTS EXPECTED TO ASSIST WITH FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF PARANA MEDIO PROJECT (SEE REFTELS) AS WELL AS WITH JOINT DESIGNS OF ELECTRO-STATIONS.

3. OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION ARE FERROUS METALLURGY (INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION OF METALLURGICAL PLANT), CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, SHIPBUILDING, AND PORT EQUIPPING. IN ADDITION DELIVERY SOVIET TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT, ARGENTINE WORKERS WILL BE TRAINED BOTH AT HOME AND IN USSR. ARGENTINA HAS ALSO "EXPRESSED INTEREST" IN SOVIET DRILLING EQUIPMENT, ESPECIALLY FOR DEEP-DRILLING (TO 5,000 METERS), AND IN SOVIET OIL REFINING PLANTS.

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4. PLANNED BILATERAL TRADE FOR 1975 INCLUDES DELIVERY OF TWO SOVIET MOBILE COAL-DRILLING COMBINES (VALUE 500,000 RUBLES), STORAGE TANKS FOR OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (VALUE 10 MILLION RUBLES), COTTON-SPINNING MACHINERY WITH 12,500 SPINDLES FOR 1976 DELIVERY (VALUE 1.5 MILLION RUBLES) AND 1975 DELIVERY OF VARIOUS TYPES BEARINGS (VALUE 1.5 MILLION RUBLES). SOVIET IMPORTS LIMITED LARGELY TO TRADITIONAL WOOL AND HIDES, BUT SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS ARGENTINE BEEF ADDED

DURING LAST TWO YEARS, INCLUDING ABOUT 15 MILLION RUBLES WORTH
IN 1974. (NOTE: REPORT DOES NOT MENTION RUMORED SOVIET
PURCHASES OF ARGENTINE WHEAT - REFTEL C.)

5. COMMENT. EMBASSY ASSUMES THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER
MOVEMENT ON POSSIBLE US-SOVIET COOPERATION ON PARANA MEDIO
PROJECT DISCUSSED REFTELS. SOURCE AT ARGENTINE EMBASSY
CLAIMED THAT RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH SOVIETS WITH REGARD TO
FEASIBILITY STUDY BASED ON CONCEPT THAT SOVIETS WILL UNDERTAKE
PROJECT ALONE. SOURCE DID NOT RULE OUT PURCHASES OF
EQUIPMENT FROM AMERICAN OR OTHER THIRD-COUNTRY SOURCES.
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